

CLAIMS

~~1. A method for printing one or more documents, operatively~~
coupled to a printing device, the method comprising:

5 receiving an indication from a user to retrieve and print the one or more documents without first displaying the one or more documents;

issuing a request to retrieve the one or more documents from an associated one or more providers;

10 receiving content of the one or more documents from the associated one or more providers into a printing module; and

printing the retrieved one or more documents from the printing module, without invoking an application associated with the one or more documents, or otherwise displaying the one or more documents to the user.

15 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

displaying a web page on a video display for the user, the web page including an icon, which when selected by the user, provides an indication to retrieve and print the one or more other documents without redirecting the browser or otherwise displaying the one or more other documents.

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3. The method of claim 2, wherein issuing the request comprises:
identifying a name and location of the one or more documents from instructions associated with the display of the icon;

sending a request to the one or more providers at the identified location to download of the one or more named documents.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the content of the one or more documents comprises:

populating one or more memory locations within printing module with document content.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein printing the retrieved document comprises:

reading document content from printing module memory;

interpreting the document content; and

sending print commands including the interpreted document content to a printed for rendering on one or more pages.


6. The method of claim 1, wherein printing the retrieved document comprises:

launching an instance of an application associated with the document locally, within the printing module, without displaying the application or the retrieved document(s) to the user;

reading document content from printing module memory into the application associated with the document; and

~~sending a print command(s) from the launched application to a~~
communicatively coupled printing device to render the document content from
the application.

5 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
 storing a user profile;

 10 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of:
 updating the user profile with information regarding recently printed
documents.

15 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:
 subsidizing the printing step of a user based, at least in part, on some
measured attribute calculated from the user profile.

20 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the measured attribute includes
one or more of a number of pages printed, a number of documents printed, a
number of featured documents printed, a number of advertisements printed,
etc.

25 11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 identifying one or more advertisements for presentation to the user; and
 printing one or more advertisements with the one or more retrieved
documents.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein identifying one or more advertisements comprises:

5 selecting a subset of advertisements from a plurality of advertisements based, at least in part, on a genre of the requested document(s).

13. The method of claim 11, wherein identifying one or more advertisements comprises:

10 selecting a subset of advertisements from a plurality of advertisements based, at least in part, on a user profile of requested documents.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein issuing a request to retrieve the one or more documents comprises:

15 determining whether the printing device is communicatively coupled to the provider(s) of the requested document(s);

establishing a communication link between the printing device and the providers if the printing device is not communicatively coupled to the providers.

20 15. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

prompting the user as to whether they wish to add the requested documents to an automated periodic printing schedule;

periodically printing requested documents identified in the periodic printing schedule.

~~16. A storage medium comprising a plurality of executable~~
instructions which, when executed by a host processor, implements a method
according to claim 1.

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17. A computer system comprising
a memory subsystem having stored thereon a plurality of executable
instructions; and

a processor, coupled to the memory subsystem, to execute at least a
subset of instructions to implement the method of claim 1.

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18. An apparatus comprising:

an automated print function, to generate and issue a request to an
operatively coupled provider to download one or more requested documents to
local memory, to interpret documents stored within local memory, and to print
the documents on a coupled printing device from local memory; and

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a controller, coupled to the automated print function and responsive to a
user indication received from a user interface, to selectively invoke an instance
of the automated print function and print a requested document, without
requiring any additional input from the user and without first displaying the
requested document to the user.

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~~19.~~ An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the apparatus resides within a user's computer system and the user interface is a web page provided by a provider, the web page including an iconic selector which, when selected by a user, provides the controller with the user indication to invoke the automated print function.

20. An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the indication provided by the user interface includes name/identifier and location information for one or more identified documents associated with the iconic selector.

21. An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the controller provides the automated print function with the name/identifier and location information to generate and issue a request to download the identified documents.

Sub a17 22. An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the automated print function formats the download request based, at least in part, on the identified location of the request documents.

20 An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the local memory further comprises a user profile, wherein the controller updates the user profile with at least information regarding document requests.

53a17 23. An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the requested documents are downloaded into the local memory.

24. ~~An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the controller requests one or more advertisements from one or more providers associated with the requested documents to be printed with the requested documents.~~

25. An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the controller requests the advertisements based, at least in part, on information contained within the user profile.

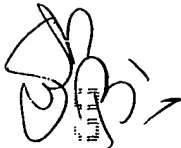
26. An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the controller requests the advertisements based, at least in part, on an identified genre of the requested documents.

27. An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the controller provides the requesting user with a product subsidy based, at least in part, on a measured attribute of the user profile.

28. An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the measure attribute includes one or more of number of pages printed, number of documents printed, number of featured documents printed, and the like.

~~29. An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the controller~~
generates commands instructing the coupled printing device to print a product coupon.

5 30. An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the controller
issues a request to a product warehouse causing a product subsidy to be sent to
the user.


10 31. An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the automated print
function prompts the user with an offer to add the requested documents to an
automated print delivery schedule.

15 32. A storage medium comprising a plurality of executable
instructions which, when executed, implement an automated print function,
responsive to a user indication to print a document, automatically generates
and issues a request to a provider of the requested document to download the
document, whereupon the automated print function prints the downloaded
document on an accessible printing device without first displaying the
document to the user or requiring any further user interaction.

20 33. The storage medium of claim 32, wherein the automated print
function formats the download request based, at least in part, on an
name/identifier and location of the requested document.

34. The storage medium of claim 33, wherein the automated print function receives the name/identifier and location information from an iconic selector in a user interface.

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35. The storage medium of claim 33, wherein the automated print function includes an interpretation agent which reads and interprets the downloaded document without having to invoke an application associated with the downloaded document.

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36. A graphical user interface (GUI), rendered on a display device operatively coupled to a printing device, the GUI comprising:

textual content; and

an iconic selector, associated with a document in an operating system of a host device, which when selected by a user provides a print function with a name/identifier and location of the associated document causing the associated document to be printed without first displaying the document to the user.

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37. A GUI according to claim 36, wherein the GUI is a web page.

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38. A GUI according to claim 36, wherein the iconic selector is an one-click print iconic selector.

39. A GUI according to claim 36, further comprising:

tertiary iconic selectors, which when invoked, direct the GUI to display an associated document.

5 40. A GUI according to claim 36, further comprising:

tertiary iconic selectors, associated with a document, to add the document to an automated printing delivery schedule.

41. An iconic selector, associated with a document in an operating
10 system of a computing platform, the iconic selector comprising:

a graphical portion, displayed to a user via a display device; and

a control portion, including name/identifier and location information of the associated document, wherein when selected by a user, the control portion issues a command with the name/identifier and location information invoking a
15 remote print function to print the associated document without displaying the associated document to the user.

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